

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 18 are currently pending, with Claims 11-15 and 18 having been withdrawn. Claims 1 and 4 are amended by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 2-5 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be otherwise allowable; and Claims 6-10 were allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 4 are amended to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections. Specifically, Claim 1 is amended to recite that a memory card includes a usable area and a security area. The amendment of Claim 1 further provides proper antecedent basis for Claim 4, addressing the rejection of Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the objection to Claims 2-5 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

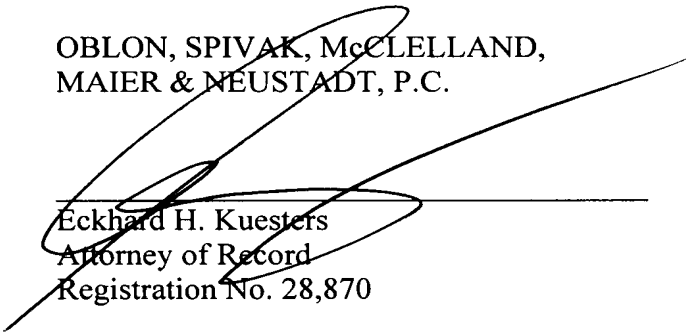
Respectfully submitted,

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